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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/466,279	12/17/1999	HAJIME INOUE	SONYJP-3.0-0	9975

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EXAMINER

BROWN, RUEBEN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/466,279

Applicant(s)

INOUE ET AL.

Examiner

Reuben M. Brown

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11 and 13-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11 and 13-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/4/2004 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, 13-18 & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshino, (EP # 0 853 402 A), in view of Fujimora, (U.S. Pat # 5,825,752).

Considering amended claim 1, the claimed receiving apparatus for receiving a digital broadcast which comprises a transport stream, such that the video and audio data have been compressed and multiplexed, comprising:

‘ a decoder for decoding the transport stream’ is met by the operation of the IRD 102, which receives video signals, and that includes video processing section 303, Yoshino, col. 4, lines 17-35.

‘digital interface for mutually transmitting the decoded transport stream to and from digital signal processing devices’ reads on the digital connection interface 304; col. 4, lines 21-25.

‘register for selecting predetermined number of devices from among a plurality of DSP devices connected to the digital interface for allocating node ID numbers to the selected devices, such that the register stores a record of the node ID number allocated to the selected device’ reads on col. 4, lines 38-47 & col. 5, lines 5-21.

As for the additionally claimed feature of the register maintaining the record of the node ID number regardless of whether the selected device remains connected to the digital interface, Yoshino does not teach such a feature. However, Fujimora teaches that when a plurality of devices are connected to a network, it is advantageous to provide a unique node ID, to each of the devices, which does not change during a bus reset; col. 9, lines 10-21. This unique node ID is in fact stored in a register, i.e., a node information table that maintains the correspondence between the unique node ID and a dynamic node ID; col. 24, lines 47-60.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Yoshino with the feature of maintaining a static node ID for devices connected to a network, at least for the benefit of insuring the uniqueness of each node, as taught by Fujimora, col. 24, lines 60-62.

Considering claims 3 & 13, as for confirming whether a node ID has been allocated, the claimed feature necessarily reads on the disclosure of Yoshino, which teaches that the ID numbers are determined in accordance with IEEE1394 standards, and that each device is determined to have its own (i.e., unique) node ID number, col. 5, lines 10-18. Also, Fujimora discloses the use of a unique node ID.

Considering claims 4 & 14, the claimed subject matter is broad enough to read on all of the devices being reconnected, after a bus reset.

Considering claims 5 & 15, Yoshino teaches that records stored in the register may be changed by user input, col. 8, lines 10-25, and discusses user selection of a source and/or target device, col. 8, lines 26-55.

Considering claims 6 & 16, the claimed subject matter reads on the discussion in Fujimora that the unique node ID are not deleted upon bus reset.

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Considering claims 7 & 17, Yoshino teaches displaying the list of connected devices; see Fig. 8 & Fig. 15; col. 8, lines 10-25 & col. 13, lines 11-30.

Considering claims 8 & 18, see Yoshino Fig. 8 & Fig. 15, which teaches that disconnected devices have a different appearance from connected devices.

Considering claims 10 & 20, the user in Yoshino is enabled to select a target or source device, col. 13, lines 10-30.

5. Claims 9 & 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshino & Fujimora, in view of Horlander, (U.S. Pat # 6,507,953).

Considering claims 9 & 19, Yoshino, which includes recording devices, does not teach providing a warning when a record of a device to provide recording has been changed. Nevertheless, Horlander, which is in the same field of endeavor provides such a feature, col. 4, lines 12-26; col. 7, lines 66-67 & col. 7- col. 8, line 14. Horlander provides resolution when it detects that a VCR is not on the bus. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Yoshino with the teachings of Horlander, at least for the advantage of notifying the user that a pending recording would not be made, since the recording device is not connected.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A) Baratti Teaches maintaining a record of servers, even when they are removed from a cluster, (i.e. deactivated), col. 7, lines 1-16.

B) Hatae Teaches that unique ID number of a device, does not change upon buss reset; Para [0253].

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
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or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 746-6861 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).*


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Reuben M. Brown whose telephone number is (703) 305-2399.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on (703) 305-4755. The fax phone numbers for the
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for regular
communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Reuben M. Brown


REUBEN M. BROWN
PATENT EXAMINER